

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00166 251309Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8748
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0166

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UK (N.I.), EI
SUBJECT: ROY MASON VISITS DUBLIN

1. THE NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY, ROY MASON, MADE HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO DUBLIN YESTERDAY UNDER EXTREMELY HEAVY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. HE HAD TALKS WITH TAOISEACH (PRIME MINISTER) COSGRAVE, JUSTICE MINISTER COONEY, POST & TELEGRAPHS MINISTER O'BRIEN AND FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD. LATE IN THE AFTERNOON HE HELD A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE LATTER THREE.

2. THE THREE DUBLIN MORNING NEWSPAPERS HAVE WIDELY VARYING ACCOUNTS, AND OPINIONS, OF WHAT MASON AND FITZGERALD SAID. THE INDEPENDENT LAUDED THE VISIT AS "AN EXTREMELY USEFUL ONE" WHICH "CLEARED THE AIR". THE INDEPENDENT NOTED THAT MASON STRESSED THERE WOULD BE NO MILITARY OR ECONOMIC WITHDRAWAL AND THAT "DEVOLVED" RULE MUST MEAN "SHARED" RULE. THE IRISH TIMES DOES NOT DIRECTLY CONDEMN MASON BUT DELICATELY CRITICIZES THE "LONDON-DUBLIN APPROACH". THE LONDON APPROACH IS WRONG FOR NOT GIVING ENOUGH PRIORITY TO NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT'S EXPRESSIONS ON COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER IN THE NORTH WOULD BE MORE "CREDIBLE"

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00166 251309Z

IF IT ALTERED OUTDATED LAWS AND PRACTICES IN THE SOUTH. THE IRISH PRESS LOUDLY CONDEMS THE VISIT AS THE "MASON DEBACLE", EMPHASIZING IN BOTH NEWS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE MADE TO LOOK FOOLISH BY APPLAUDING THE MOLYNEUX PLAN SHORTLY AFTER THE PLAN HAD BEEN DISAVOWED BY MOLYNEUX. THE PRESS EDITORIAL IS EXTRAORDINARILY BITTER: "ALL THE PUBLIC HEARD AFTER A

DAY OF TALKS INVOLVING NO FEWER THAN FIVE CABINET
MINISTERS WAS THE TIRED OLD LINE THAT STONEWALL MASON
HAS BEEN PLUGGING SINCE THE DAY HE TOOK OFFICE. NO TROOP
WITHDRAWAL, NO ECONOMIC WITHDRAWAL, NO BRITISH INITIATIVES.
IN FACT NOTHING...CAN A MAN WHO UTTERS SUCH FATUOUS
SENTIMENTS REALLY BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY."

3. COMMENT: THE PRESS EDITORIAL, WHICH WE ARE POUCHING
TO ADDRESSEES, IS MORE SCATHING THAN USUAL. SINCE THE
PRESS GENERALLY REPRESENTS FIANNA FAIL THINKING, OR IN
THIS CASE THE MORE MILITANT FIANNA FAIL THINKING, IT IS
OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE. CURLEY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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